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produced in the protected area for re-export nor will I/we allow it to be re-exported under a misdescription;

(3) to return the said licence on expiration of the period for which it is granted to the licensing authority together with such details as he may require as to the cotton / kapas / cotton seed / waste imported under it and of its subsequent disposal.

Dated Signed

at

Instructions.

(*a*) The Cotton Transport Act does not impose any general restriction on cotton transport but only on transport into specified areas (notified by local Governments for protection) from stations outside those areas. Each notification includes a schedule of railway stations in the protected area to which it refers. Licences are only required by concerns situated within the limits of a protected area. Licences granted under the Cotton Transport Act are available for the importation of cotton from anywhere in India but only to the stations specified.

(*b*) Cotton, as defined in the Act, includes ginned cotton, unginned cotton (kapas), cotton seed and cotton waste, but separate licences are required for each Separate rules are also in force for the importation into protected areas of cotton by road, river or sea.

(*c*) Stationmasters or other railway servants responsible for the booking of goods or parcels at all stations in India are *empowered* by section 4 of the Act to refuse to book cotton to a notified station in a protected area unless a certified copy of the licence is handed in when the cotton is tendered for booking. Each consignment requires a separate certified copy which will accompany the railway invoice to destination.

(*d*) Stationmasters or other railway servants responsible for the receipt and delivery to the consignee of goods and parcels at notified stations are *required* by section 5 of the Act to refuse delivery of cotton from outside the protected area (which is defined by a list of stations) unless accompanied by a certified copy of the licence (or unless the original licence is produced).

(*e*) Paragraph 2 in the application form corresponds with condition (*b*) of the licence the object being to safeguard the protected area against the misuse (which might be quite unintentional) of cotton imported under licence.

(*f*) The protected areas notified in the Madras Presidency are those contained in Government Notification, Development Department, No.

sub-section (3), shall be in force for a period of ten years from the date of such determining and may be revised by the Commissioner at the termination of such successive periods of ten years."

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—"I second it."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I think, Sir, that this Bill deals with the same subject as the hon. Member Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti's Bill does. But, as I have stated, the policy of the Government is, generally speaking, not to oppose motions for leave for the introduction of Bills. I should however like that the hon. Mover does not make his motion. If he moves, I do not propose to oppose the motion."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Sir, I wish to make a personal explanation. It was suggested to me that my motion might be withdrawn in view of the fact that the Corporation itself was instituting a committee to suggest all comprehensive amendments and, in deference to the request made by the Secretary to the Local Self-Government Department, I begged of you to allow me to withdraw my Bill. Now, my hon. Friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, is dealing in his Bill only with one of the many amendments which I have sent in for incorporation in the Bill and even that amendment of Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, as I will be able to show, does not satisfy our requirements. Therefore, as has been said, nothing will be lost by withdrawing this motion. Necessary amendments to the Bill may be passed in the October session."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"I beg leave to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

VIII

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 1920, AND THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT, 1920, OF MR. V. PANTULU AYYAR.

* Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR :—"Under Standing Order No. 38 I beg leave to introduce a Bill [a] to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. Sir, this is a Bill for the introduction of which this honurable House was on a previous occasion pleased to grant leave. The main object of this Bill is to amend sections 45 (c), 46 (1) and 52 of the Madras Local Boards Act. The Act as it stands makes the payment qualification the *sine qua non* for eligibility to vote at municipal elections. The one object intended to be served by this Act could only have been to facilitate the collection of municipal dues by holding out payment before a certain period, i.e., before the end of the financial year, as an incentive to possessing elective franchise. But in practical administration this object has not been attained as may be found from various Government reports which show that there has been always a large amount of uncollected taxes in various municipalities. This non-collection is due to the utter indifference shown by most of the municipal councils in the matter of collection. Moreover, elections occur only once in three years for each ward, so that payment qualification even if useful will serve only in the case of a fraction of the tax-payers, and will not serve the purpose for which it is

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